

USU Medical PDA Initiative—Fast Facts

Department of Biomedical Informatics, USUHS 9/26/2001

The current version of this material is available on the web at: <http://cim.usuhs.mil/pda/>

Use of personal digital assistants (PDA) has accelerated recently and roughly half of physicians surveyed at one hospital already own one (Ho W. L., Forman J., Kannry J. **Portable Digital Assistant Use in a Medicine Teaching Program**. Proc AMIA Symp 2000;:1031). In this study the primary uses of these devices were to track outpatients and as a drug reference. Rothschild and coworkers found that physicians and medical students are able to successfully incorporate PDAs into their patient care workflow. With the use of a drug information database (qRx, ePocrates), clinicians save time, improve knowledge for themselves and their patients, and possibly decrease preventable adverse drug effects (Rothschild J. M., Lee T. H., Bae T., Yamamoto R., Horsky J., Bates D.W. **Survey of Physicians' Experience Using a Handheld DrugReference Guide**. Proc AMIA Symp 2000;:1125)

Initiative Goal and Objectives

The goal of the USU Medical PDA initiative is integration of this technology into the clinical setting. The objectives of the initiative are:

- ❑ Clinical encounter log collection (AvantGo and CWebLog)
- ❑ Clinical reference material access (5-Minute Clinical Consult and ePocrates)
- ❑ Clinical calculator availability (MedMath and others)
- ❑ Shared calendar - information push

Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for the TRGpro. This includes arranging for both warranty and out of warranty repairs. You are responsible for installing the four applications (see Software tools below) and the appropriate channel in AvantGo. During your clinical studies you are expected to maintain the unit operational. CWebLog is one option for maintaining a log of your clinical encounters.

Initiative Tools

The tool that you will be using includes the TRGpro handheld computer. The key features of this handheld include:

- ❑ Palm OS 3.5.1 (probably should upgrade to 3.5.3)
- ❑ 8MB RAM
- ❑ 2MB Flash
- ❑ Built-in applications include: The normal PalmOS applications and FlashPro, CFpro, and CFBackup
- ❑ Compatible with most Palm III series hardware
- ❑ Capable of operating industry standard CompactFlash cards

Software tools that you will be using include:

- ❑ 5-Minute Clinical Consult
requires code and installation (code was distributed with your TRGpro)
- ❑ MedMath* – medical calculator

- ❑ Avantgo* – CWebLog (3rd yr experiences)
requires registration and installation
- ❑ ePocrates* – clinical drug database
requires registration and installation
- ❑ iSilo* or TealDoc* - text readers

*CD-ROM distribution in January 2002

What You Need

Before you Begin

- ❑ Is your computer appropriate? Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2000 or MacOS 7.53
- ❑ Do you have a connection to the Internet (LAN or modem)
- ❑ You need to identify an available serial/COM port on your personal computer

Software Installation

Installing 5-Minute Clinical Consult requires a code that was distributed with your TRGpro).

AvantGo and ePocrates both require registration at their sites and are somewhat large files to download over a modem. Both will be distributed on the USU PDA Initiative CD-ROM in January 2002.

The MedMath medical calculator will also be distributed on this CD-ROM.

What's Next?

- ❑ An optional, voluntary, introduction to installing the HotSync cradle and Palm Desktop
- ❑ FastFacts for installation of AvantGo and ePocrates
- ❑ A CD-ROM that will make software installation somewhat quicker
- ❑ Optional, voluntary, introductions to installing each of the software packages on your TRGpro

REVISION HISTORY

12/13/2000 Corrected typos

9/26/2001 Update

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